

ARTIST FOR KIDS - #AFKfromhome – Janet Wang



Pattern detail from *Peep Show*
Drawings and digital media
Janet Wang
2019

This week, we will look at the contrast between our built environment and the natural world. To the right is an artwork I created that contrasts patterns of flowers and vines with well-known buildings and public artworks from the City of Calgary. I love contrasting organic forms with the buildings and materials we find in our cities.

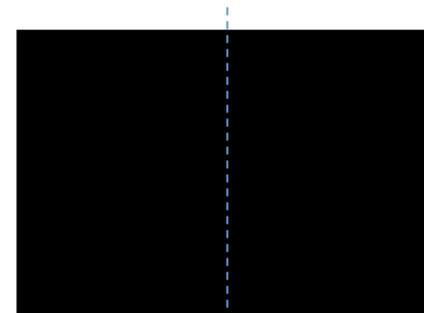
For our materials today, we will go back to our first week's project and use our **pressed flowers** and leaves. (If you didn't get a chance to do this, no problem! Just grab some colourful flowers and greenery from outside, and you will have one extra step at the end of this project)

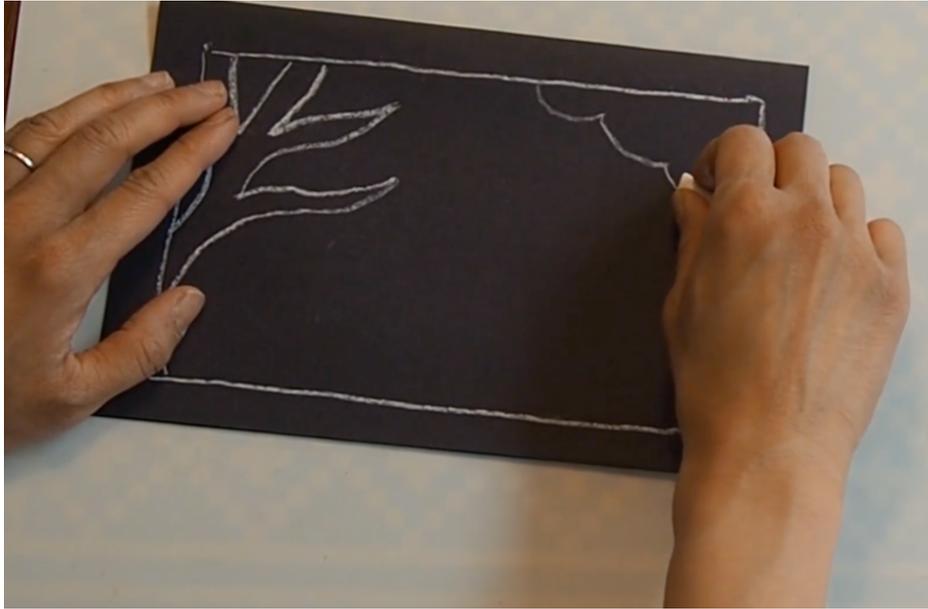


In addition to your **pressed flowers**, you will also need:

- 1 sheet of black or dark paper
- 1 piece of parchment or tissue paper
- Glue stick
- Scissors
- Chalk or a pencil

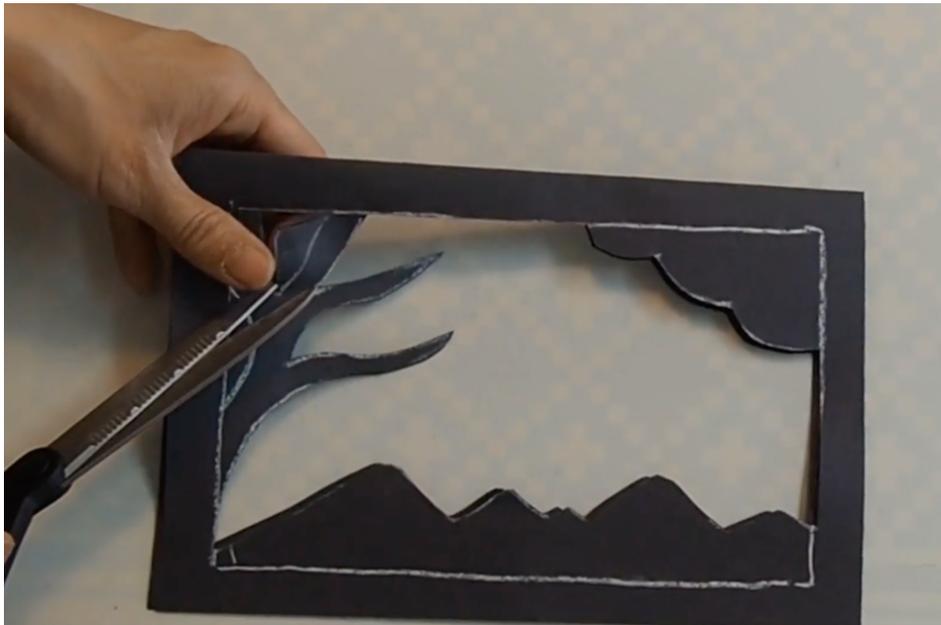
For our first step, take your black paper and fold this in half:





Using chalk or a pencil, **draw a simple window frame** on one half of your paper. You can sit in front of a window or draw an imaginary one.

Next, **draw a few simple shapes representing what you see outside of your window.** I drew a tree trunk, a fluffy cloud and some mountains. Your view may include more buildings, cars, people or animals – just keep your shapes simple and keep part of each object connected to the window frame.



To cut out the centre of our window frame, gently bend the paper in half without pressing down on the fold.

Make a small snip so you can get your scissors into the window “opening” and then **trim out all of the negative space.** Negative space is the area between objects and shapes. For our window, this could be the sky or all of the details that we are leaving out of our drawing.

Once we are done cutting out the negative space, we don't want the chalk or pencil lines to show, so **gently fold the paper inside out.** Your drawing lines will be nicely hidden.



Next, **fold a piece of parchment or tissue paper in half**. I placed my folded parchment inside my black window frame with the folded edges matching, and traced a line just inside the outer edge of the frame.

Trim your parchment, and then **apply glue to the bottom part of the black paper frame**. Gently press your parchment on to the frame.



Take your pressed flowers and arrange these inside your picture frame on the bottom half of the fold. I love the idea of these larger than life flowers and leaves within this miniature window. The dried flower petals become more transparent and light will shine through and brighten these colours.

If you have fresh flowers, arrange your natural materials as best you can, and lightly flatten them on to the page.



Once you are happy with your arrangement, add glue all over the top half.

Gently refold the top half over the bottom half, and smooth from the centre out to the edges. Pressing from the centre allows us to smooth out any wrinkles easily.

If your flowers are fresh, you can take your artwork and sandwich in the middle of a thick book or between some cardboard, and add another book or heavy objects on top. Your flowers will take one week to dry.



When everything is dried, you can hang your artwork on your window. I love looking at the sunlight filtering through the different colours and bringing a bit of the natural world into my home.

While each of us may be in our homes and not in the classroom, we all can look out our windows and find beauty within our own views of the world.

We'd love to see what your view and your artwork looks like! You can **share your work** on Instagram with the hashtag #afkfromhome or to AFKinfo@sd44.ca.